ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Harmony Grove Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

AT

ELDRIDGE, WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA,

OCTOBER 18 AND 19, 1895.

The next Session of the Association will be held with the Baptist Church at WINFIELD, MARION COUNTY, on the K. C. M. & B. R. R., commencing on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1896, at 11 o'clock A. M.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:
DISPATCH STATIONERY CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
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OFFICERS.

Q. D. Haney, *Moderator*, . . . Eldridge, Ala.

J. E. Barnard, *Clerk and Treasurer*, . . . East Lake, Ala.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Presentation of Letters from the Churches.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite Visiting Ministers to Seats.
6. Receive Correspondence.
7. Return Correspondence.
8. Appointment of Special Committee: (1) on Devotion, (2) on Documents, (3) on Nomination, (4) on Finance.
9. Call for Reports of Standing Committees: (1) on Sunday Schools, (2) on Temperance, (3) on State Missions, (4) on Home Missions, (5) on Foreign Missions, (6) on Denominational Education, (7) on Ministerial Education, (8) on Religious Literature, (9) on Prayer Meetings, (10 on Indigent Ministers.
10. Report of Treasurer.
11. Appointment of Treasurer.
12. Call for Report of Special Committees: (1) on Documents, (2) on Nominations, (3) on Finance.
13. Appoint Standing Committees.
14. Miscellaneous Business.
15. Roll Call and Adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS.

ELDRIDGE, ALA., October 18, 1895.

The Harmony Grove Baptist Association met this day in its Fourth Annual Session with the Baptist Church at Eldridge, at 11 A. M., after which the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Q. D. Haney. Text: Acts 16: 31.

After preaching a motion was made to adjourn for one hour.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The former Moderator being absent, the clerk called the house to order at 2 P. M., and after devotional exercises a motion was made for Rev. Q. D. Haney to act as temporary chairman. Carried.

The Moderator then called for the letters of the different churches, and appointed Rev. D. W. Dickinson and J. P. McGaha as reading clerks.

The names of delegates were enrolled as follows:

Eldridge—Q. D. Haney, J. W. Tipper, A. W. Kelley, G. W. Castleberry, and J. W. Stublefield.

Guin—W. P. Cantrel, I. Estel, V. A. Chambliss, J. A. Shaw, J. T. Carpenter and Rev. J. E. Barnard.

Fern Springs—R. Colburn, W. J. Harrison and W. J. Colburn.

Harmony Grove—J. P. Vickery, G. P. Pate and T. J. Perry.

New River—J. C. Todd, G. W. Gardener, A. W. Killingsworth and W. J. Killingsworth.

New Hope—E. R. Shiry, A. H. Franks and G. W. Gann.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Denominational Education report that we find an increased demand among Baptists of this and sister associations for better denominational education among our people; that the time has come when our young people should not only have a literary education, but that they should have impressed upon their minds the reasons why they are Baptists, and an education whereby our young men and women may be enabled to worthily take the place of the soldiers of the cross, who will soon lay aside their armor and enter into their reward.

While we endorse and recommend to our young men and women, and to the denomination at large, the Howard College, the Judson Institute and the Seminary at Louisville, Ky., we believe that denominational schools should be established that will bring the advantages of an education in our denomination nearer the masses of our people, and to establish as many of these institutions as possible among our people, and at least keep pace with other denominations who are seeking to perpetuate their creeds and to increase their strength among the young people of the country. We rejoice to learn that our sister association, the North River, has taken a step in this direction and has started an institution of learning in our bounds, located at Eldridge, which will be conducted under the christian influence of our denomination, thus bringing to the doors of our people an opportunity to have their children taught under the influence of our churches and denomination. And we would recommend that this Association join the North River Association in this work, and that every delegate be requested to bring this matter before their churches, and that all members of our churches be requested to aid in this good work and assist in the establishment of this institution.

We further recommend that this Association appoint a committee to take part with the North River Association in this enterprise.

A. W. KILLINGSWORTH, Chairman.

The above report was well discussed and adopted.

The following named brethren were appointed as a committee for the purpose suggested by the Committee on Denominational Education: W. J. Killingsworth, D. W. Dickinson, J. P. McGaha, I. Estel and T. C. Kelley.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Mission Board is charged with the duty of looking after all the enterprises fostered by the State Convention except the Orphanage. For the last nineteen years the convention has been making an earnest effort to advance the mission work in the limits of the State. Great success has attended their labors. The work of the past year is summed up by the Secretary, W. B. Crumpton, as follows, viz.:

Number of men employed, 40; days of service, 5,011; sermons preached,

2,332; addresses delivered, 1,132; churches constituted, 1; baptisms, 701; received by letter, 305; restored, 42; Sunday schools organized, 43; prayer meetings organized, 101; churches visited, 613; subscribers secured to the *Alabama Baptist*, 287; to *Foreign Mission Journal*, 129; meeting-houses begun, 7; finished, 8. Money collected for all purposes, $2,203.87. Nineteen young preachers were assisted at the Howard and six at the seminary. We should do all we can in sustaining this work.

Q. D. HANEY, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized fifty years ago last May. One object of its organization was to assist the servants of God in preaching to weak churches and sending them to important places where there were no churches as far as the churches would furnish the means.

Fifty years ago the Baptists in the South numbered 250,000; now 2,748,671; an increase of nearly two and a half millions.

The last year's work, as reported to the convention, is as follows, viz.:

Number of missionaries employed	425
Weeks of labor	11,466
Churches and stations	3,484
Sermons and addresses	46,620
Number of baptisms	5,921
Number received by letter	6,519
Churches constituted	178
Houses built	52

There has been contributed to this work during the past year $88,640.20.

The per cent. of increase last year was: In missionaries, 12; contributions, 20; baptisms. 32.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK BARNARD.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

When we speak of the Foreign Mission work we do not mean that it is different from other missions, except in method. State Mission is preaching the gospel in our own State; Home Mission is to preach to destitute people in the Southern States, Indian Territory, and Island of Cuba. Foreign Mission is preaching to those in foreign lands who are without Christ.

The plans of our Board are broad, the work that is being done is substantial. From the report of the Foreign Board we learn that the contributions for the last year were $130,000, closing the year with an indebtedness of $20,000. In Papal fields—Mexico, Brazil and Italy—387 have been baptized during the past year. The total membership in these fields is 2,083. In China, Japan and Africa—Pagan fields—191 have been baptized, and there is a membership of 1,410.

During the past year we have sent out only six new missionaries—two to Japan and four to China.

FACTS ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In all the foreign fields there is a population of 602 millions. In these countries the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention have only 187 missionaries, or one missionary to every three millions of souls. We would insist upon every Baptist family taking the *Foreign Mission Journal* in order to keep up with this work.

Let us all remember the words of Jesus: "Ye shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. BARNARD.

Adjourned until 2 P. M.

SECOND DAY—Afternoon Session.

The Association re-assembled at 2 P. M.

After devotional exercises the question of missions being still before the body, was further discussed by different brethren.

All the reports on missions were adopted in their order.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The character of the preacher's work emphasize the necessity of his education.

What calling is more worthy of the best there is in a man than the gospel ministry? "He that desireth the office of a bishop desireth a good work." The message of the minister is one of general interest. Our Lord not only taught in the temple, but "went about doing good." The pastor of a church is elder, preacher and shepherd Who is sufficient for these things?" Seeing the great work demanded at the hands of the preacher he should be well equipped for his important work.

We have the Howard at East Lake and the Seminary at Louisville, Ky., for the education of worthy young preachers who feel—"Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel of Christ."

But these institutions of learning can not help our dear young preachers unless the churches assist in raising the money for the support of these brethren while struggling to obtain an education. We have thirty-three young preachers in Howard College this year and eleven at the Seminary. These brethren are looking to the Baptist Churches of Alabama for help while in school.

We ask that the delegates of every church in the Association take a collection and raise what money they can for Ministerial Education. Let this matter be attended to at once.

I. Estel, Chairman.

A cash collection was taken up for Ministerial Education amounting to $5.80; $7.50 were paid on pledges made last year.

Pledges for this year:

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES.

Q. D. Haney	$2 00
L. C. Kelley	50
J. A. Warren	50
Total	$3 00

CHURCH PLEDGES.

Jasper Church, (N. R. Association)	$ 5 00
Eldridge	2 00
Guin	1 00
Fern Springs	2 00
Harmony Grove	1 00
Oak Grove	1 00
Total	$12 00

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance report as follows:

Received for Minutes	$12 70
Received for associational purposes	3 85
Total	$16 55

W. J. KILLINGSWORTH, Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sunday School—J. P. McGaha, G. P. Pate, J. A. Warren.

Temperance—A. W. Killingsworth, S. H. Key, V. A. Taylor.

State Missions—I. Estel, R. Colburn, H. L. Adkins.

Home Missions—J. W. Tipper, Wm. Thouroughgood, E. D. Kelley.

Foreign Missions—J. E. Barnard, G. W. Gardner, J. C. Todd.

Denominational Education—B. D. Kelley, T. J. Perry and W. W. Dobbins.

Ministerial Education—D. W. Dickinson, A. H. Franks and J. L. Wade.

Religious Literature—G. W. Gann, J. P. Couch and L. C. Kelley.

Prayer Meeting—W. F. Stublefield, J. H. Roberts and J. R. Cutts.

Indigent Ministers—W. J. Killingsworth, J. D. Sherer and W. F. Couch.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Your Treasurer would make the following report:

Received for Minutes and Associational Fund	$15 90
Received for Foreign Missions	3 55
Received for Indigent Ministers	3 85
Total	$23 30

Paid for printing Minutes	$13 00
Paid to myself for Clerk	2 90
Paid to J. W. Owens for Indigent Ministers	3 85
Paid to J. A. Glenn for Foreign Missions	3 55
Total	$23 30

The Moderator appointed the Clerk Treasurer for the present year.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents have examined all the letters and find one request from each of the two churches:

First—Winfield Church ask for this body to meet with them next year.

Second—Guin Church request that we have the obituary of Brother Stephen Caudle printed in the Minutes of our Association.

We recommend the request of these churches to be granted.

S. H. Key, Chairman.

The above report was adopted.

The Committee on Nominations reported that J. E. Barnard was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session, and W. J. Akins alternate.

The Association adjourned until 8 P. M.

J. E. Barnard preached at 7 P. M. from Text: Jno. 1: 42.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Moderator called the house to order at 8 P. M.

On motion, the question sent from Oak Grove Church last

year and tabled at that session of this body, was taken from the table and reconsidered. The question reads thus: "Is it right for any church in this Association to receive members from other denominations without baptizing them? If not, what should be done with a church that practises such?" After due consideration of this question the following answer was unanimously agreed upon:

Resolved, That we answer emphatically NO to the first part of this question; and to the second part we advise that such a church be admonished, and if she continues such practice this body should withdraw from her for such practice.

REPORT OF FIRST DISTRICT MEETING.

The third session of the First District Meeting convened with the New River Church Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1895.

The next session to convene with Fern Springs Church Friday before fourth Sunday in August, 1896. B. T. Selman to preach at 11 o'clock; R. Colburn alternate.

QUESTIONS.

1. What is the teaching of Matt. 24: 40–41?
2. What is the meaning of Luke 9: 62? Opened by J. C. Todd.
3. Meaning of Luke 11: 24? Opened by B. T. Selman.
4. What is the mantle Elisha received from Eliza? Opened by Q. D. Haney.

S. H. KEY, Clerk.

REPORT OF SECOND DISTRICT MEETING.

The third session of this body met with New Hope Church Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1895. The next session to meet with Siloam Church Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1896.

QUESTIONS.

1. Is the falling away spoken of in 2 Thess. 2: 3, in the past or future? Opened by S. W. Moss.
2. Does God use his ministers as means in his hands in the salvation of souls? Opened by V. A. Taylor.
3. What is the meaning of first works, Rev. 2: 5? Opened by D. W. Dickinson.

Rev. A. N. Reeves to preach at 11 o'clock on Friday.

RESOLUTIONS.

STANDING RESOLUTION: *Resolved*, That any member of this body who may be present at the meetings of any association with which we correspond is authorized to represent this body as a correspondent.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Eldridge Church and community for their hospitality to the delegates and correspondents during the session of this body. S. H. Key.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to W. T. Walton of Jasper, and the choir of Eldridge for the sweet music rendered by them during the session of this body. A. W. Killingsworth.

Resolved, That we have 250 copies of Minutes published.

S. H. Key.

A motion was made to empower the Clerk to correct all mistakes.

The body joined in singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Q. D. Haney, *Moderator.*

J. E. Barnard, *Clerk.*

STEPHEN CAUDLE.

The subject of this sketch, member and deacon of the Baptist Church at Guin, departed this life February 27, 1895.

He was born in Lancaster District, S. C., September 29, 1818, professed faith in Christ and joined the Baptist Church at Sweetwater, Alabama, in 1837, and was married in Butler County, Alabama, February 13, 1837.

He was ordained a deacon in Bare Creek Church, Bibb County, in 1857; after moving to Marion County he joined Union (now Guin) Church, where he served the church faithfully as deacon and member until he lost his sight. While he could no longer serve as deacon he was faithful to attend the meetings of his church until he was unable to be carried.

In the death of Brother Caudle the church has lost a good member, the people a kind neighbor, and the children an affectionate father.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF HARMONY GROVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Ministerial Education		Minutes	Associational Purposes
				Cash	Vou.		
Eldridge	$	$	$	$2 00	$2 50	$2 40	$ 50
Guin	10 45	1 25	1 00	6 45	1 00	3 10	.....
Fern Springs	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00	1 35	25
Harmony Grove	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00	1 00	25
New River	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00	50
New Hope	.....	.....	.....	1 50	[illegible]	1 50	50
Oak Grove	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	.....
Pleasant Grove	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	2 00	60
Union	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	50
Winfield	.....	.....	.....	2 50	.....	2 00	50
Collections at Associations,	.....	.....	.....	5 80	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL	$10 45	$1 25	$1 00	$19 75	$7 50	$18 35	$3 50

STATISTICS OF THE HARMONY GROVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1895.

CHURCH	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERK'S POST OFFICE	Membership Last Reported	Increased by				Decreased by				Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL				Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
						Baptism	Letter	Voucher	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death		Officers and Teachers	Pupils	Superintendent's Name	Post Office Address			
Eldridge	Walker	Q. D. Haney	W. F. Stublefield	Eldridge	122				1	10	9			104	5	50	Wm. McClane	Eldridge	2d	Yes	
Guin	Marion	H. W. Lantrip	J. R. Cutts	Guin	157	2	8			19	2		1	145	7	78	J. T. Carpenter	Guin	1st & 3d	Yes	Yes
Hope Well																					
Fern Springs	Marion	R. Co burn	T. G. Colburn	Eldridge	39					4				35	4	25			4th		
Harmony Grove	Fayette	W. J. Akins	C. H. Vaughn	Winfield	74	1	3		2	12			1	67	3	40	T. J. Perry	Winfield	1st		
New River	Fayette	W. G. Baker	J. D. Sherer	Dry Creek	70	1	6		2	2	2			75					2d		
New Hope	Marion		C. W. Shiry	Winfield	57	18	6		1	2			1	79					3d		
Oak Grove	Fayette	J. F. Willis	W. A. Weeks	Guin	44					2	2		2	38					2d		
*Siloam																					
†Glennallen																					
Union	Fayette	B. T. Selman	J. W. Jones	New River	11	3	2						1	15					3d		
Pleasant Grove	Fayette		W. C. Brown	Cole Bluff	76				2	6	10			62					3d		
Winfield	Marion	A. N. Reeves	J. T. Spann	Winfield	67	18	5		1	4	1		1	84	6	60	S. W. Moss	Winfield	2d	Yes	Yes
TOTAL					717	43	30		9	61	26		7	690	25	252					

*Not represented. †Dissolved.

104 105